



# HAITI



## INTRODUCTION

In 1697, Spain ceded to the French the western third of the island of Hispaniola, which later became Haiti. The French colony, based on forestry and sugar-related industries, became one of the wealthiest in the Caribbean. Currently the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti continues to experience bouts of political instability.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

Acting President Ariel HENRY

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Ariel HENRY

### Government Type

semi-presidential republic

### Capital

Port-au-Prince

### Legislature

bicameral legislature or le Corps Legislatif ou parlement consists of le Senat or the Senate (30 seats) and la Chambre de deputes or the Chamber of Deputies (119 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 27,750 sq km

Land: 27,560 sq km

Water: 190 sq km

### Climate

tropical; semiarid where mountains in east cut off trade winds

### Natural Resources

bauxite, copper, calcium carbonate, gold, marble, hydropower, arable land

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

small Caribbean island economy and OECS-member state; extreme poverty; enormous income inequalities; destabilization due to recent presidential assassination; US preferential market access; deteriorating human capital and infrastructure investments

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$31.62 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$2,800 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - textiles, sugar refining, flour milling, cement, light assembly using imported parts

**Agricultural products** - sugarcane, cassava, mangoes/guavas, plantains, bananas, yams, avocados, maize, rice, vegetables

**Exports** \$980.2 million (2017 est.)

clothing and apparel, eels, essential oils, perfumes, mangoes, cocoa beans (2019)

**partners:** US 81%, Canada 7% (2019)

**Imports** \$3.618 billion (2017 est.)

refined petroleum, rice, clothing and apparel, palm oil, poultry meats (2019)

**partners:** US 39%, China 22%, Turkey 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

11.2 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

1.22% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Black 95%, mixed and

White 5%

### Language

French (official), Creole (official)

### Religion

Catholic 55%, Protestant 29%, Vodou 2.1%, other 4.6%, none 10% (2018 est.) note: 50-80% of Haitians incorporate some elements of Vodou culture or practice in addition to another religion, most often Roman Catholicism; Vodou was recognized as an official religion in 2003

### Urbanization

urban population: 58% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 2.47% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

